

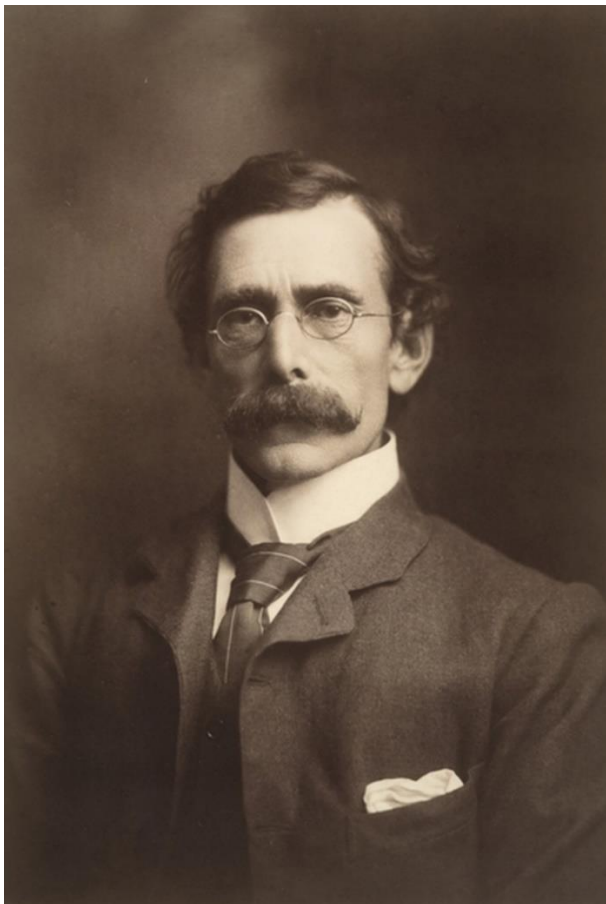
Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #39

30 April 2024

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Biography: John Harry Grainger



Source: Grainger Collection University of Melbourne

John Grainger was a gifted architect and civil engineer whose legacy is many heritage buildings and bridges in South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, New Zealand and Victoria. His works included the Albert Bridge in Adelaide, the Prince's Bridge in Melbourne, the Swing Bridge over the Latrobe River near Sale, the Fremantle Town Hall and the Auckland Municipal Offices.

Born in 1854 in Westminster, London, Grainger started his engineering training when he was fifteen in the office of W.E. Wilson, Dean's Yard, Westminster. He studied architecture under I.J. Eden and W.K. Green of Westminster.

In 1877, at the age of 23, he migrated to South Australia and started a drafting position with the South Australian Public Works Department. His private practice very quickly dominated his career. He resigned in mid-1878 after winning the design competition for the Albert Street Bridge, in Adelaide, which he codesigned with Henry Worsley. As a member of the firm Grainger and D'Ebro he won the design competition for the Sale Swing Bridge in 1879. The partnership, with Charles D'Ebro, also won the design competition for the Prince's Bridge in Melbourne in 1879.

In 1880, he moved to Melbourne to finalise the design of these bridges and to design prominent buildings such as the Masonic Hall and George's Building, both in Collins Street. Other buildings designed were the State Savings Bank in Elizabeth Street and the Administrative Offices at the Melbourne Town Hall.

In 1897 he was appointed to the role of Principal Architect with the Western Australian Public Works Department and designed many buildings including the Government House Ballroom, the Supreme Court, the Perth Art Gallery, Parliament House, Perth Central Police Courts and the Warden's Court in Coolgardie. Whilst working in Western Australia, he won two gold medals for his exhibits at the Paris Exhibition of 1900.

John resigned from the Western Australian position due to ill health in 1905. After a trip to Europe to improve his health, he returned to work in Melbourne in 1906.

He went on to be involved in the design and construction of 14 bridges in his career, as well as water supply and irrigation schemes.

John had married Rose Aldridge in October 1880, at Adelaide and they had one son, the prominent musician and composer Percy Aldridge Grainger.

Ill health plagued John in the latter stages of his life and combined with poor investments he died a pauper, at Kew, Melbourne, on April 13, 1917, aged 62.

For a detailed biography, please refer to the proceedings of the 3rd Australasian Engineering Heritage Conference 2009 through the link:

[John Harry Grainger, Engineer and Architect. \(architecture.com.au\)](http://architecture.com.au)

(By Chris Fitzhardinge)

Engineering Heritage Australia Awards 2024

Engineering Heritage Australia maintains two awards, these are:

John Monash Medal – a career achievement award; and

Colin Crisp Award – separate awards for ‘conservation’ and ‘documentation’ projects.

Invitations for nominations for both awards are now open.

Nomination information for the John Monash Medal was included in the recent Engineers Australia Excellence Awards advertising while the Colin Crisp Award advertising will be included in the Australasian Engineering Heritage Conference (AEHC2024) advertising. Engineers Australia webpages advertising the Adelaide Conference is expected shortly. The Colin Crisp Awards will be announced and presented at the conference dinner in Adelaide on 24 October.

If interested in submitting a nomination for either of these awards, additional information is available from the EHA Website at

https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Main_Page.

Nominations for both awards close on 2 July

More information on the John Monash Medal and the Colin Crisp Award, including lists of previous recipients, is available on the EHA website at

<https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Awards> (from main menu, select Engineering Heritage/Awards)

(From Dick Baird – EHA)



ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA Excellence Awards

**Engineering Heritage Australia:
John Monash Medal**

Nominations open **2 April**
Nominations close **2 July**

[Submit now](#)



ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA

Colin Crisp Award

Nominations open **2 April**
Nominations close **2 July**

[Submit now](#)

Australasian Engineering Heritage Conference 2024 (AEHC2024)

This year's Conference will be held in the Engineers Australia offices in Adelaide on 24-25 October 2024. The gala dinner on Thursday 24th will be held in the iconic General Post Office which is currently being refurbished as the Adelaide Marriott. The conference committee led by Mario Macri with support from the South Australian Branch is well advanced with budget, sponsorship, speaker program and Friday afternoon tours. Conference advertising is scheduled to commence on 1 May, which is also when the call for abstracts opens. The abstract submission deadline is 14 June.

(By Mike Taylor– EHA)

Heritage Engineering Course - Implementation of Heritage Engineering Solutions

This course will introduce engineers and other professionals to heritage materials and construction methods, including the ways in which heritage materials deteriorate, and processes for conserving them. The course is a professional development course co-designed by Engineering Heritage Australia and the University of Canberra.

Successful completion of this course along with the Introduction to Engineering Heritage course will allow qualified engineers to be eligible to be accredited as Heritage Engineers and listed in the EA National Engineering Register in Heritage and Conservation Engineering.

The course is now open for enrolment on the University of Canberra website at <https://www.canberra.edu.au/discover-fad/introduction-to-heritage-engineering-solutions-sydney>.

The course includes self-paced study from 1 June and an onsite workshop from 9-10 July at Cockatoo Island (Sydney). More detail including descriptions of the topics covered and information on the presenters/facilitators will be available shortly via Engineers Australia communications.

NOTE - This course is a complementary course to the *Introduction to Engineering Heritage* short course also offered by UC. However, it is not a prerequisite for this course and either one can be completed first.

(From Neil Hogg)

Letter of support from EA/EHS for the proposed heritage listing of the Powerhouse Museum Complex on the State Heritage Register (SHR)

Find attached to this bulletin, a letter of support from EA/EHS for the proposed heritage listing of the Powerhouse Museum Complex (being an extension to the Ultimo Power House, State Heritage Register item 02045) on the State Heritage Register (SHR).

(By Eamonn Madden – EHS)

Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering (AAMME) First Bulletin 04/2024

Find attached to this bulletin, the April edition of the AAMME Bulletin for 2024.

(From Bill Phippen- EHS)

Contributions needed

Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at fshawash@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.

This Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin is published by Engineers Australia's National Committee for Engineering Heritage. Statements made or opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Engineers Australia.



Alexandra Boukouvalas
Manager, State Heritage Register Listing
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
(By email: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Item: The Powerhouse Museum Complex (being an extension to Ultimo Power House,
State Heritage Register Item 02045)**

Dear Ms Boukouvalas

This submission is on behalf of Engineers Australia (EA), the peak body for professional engineers in Australia, with a membership of over 120,000. Engineering Heritage Sydney (EHS) is an active group within Engineers Australia, with a professional interest in recognising and preserving engineering heritage but also looking to the future of engineering.

With these dual interests, EHS strongly supports the extension of the Power House Museum curtilage on the State Heritage Register to include the entire museum complex.

EA / EHS is fully supportive of the adaptive re-use of engineering heritage items, and the Power House Museum is an excellent example of this, having taken over the former Ultimo Power House. It is thus appropriate for the Museum to continue along these lines and for all buildings to be protected under a State Heritage Register listing.

The extension of the Power House curtilage would also ensure that there will still be facilities for a greater range of exhibits at the museum, which would allow for the maintenance of a full science and technology emphasis. Such critical exhibits that need this space would include the Boulton & Watt engine, the Steam Revolution Exhibition, the Transport Exhibition and the Space Exhibition.

With the need to encourage interests in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) amongst the younger generation in particular, EA / EHS considers it vital that the Power House continues its traditional approach at Ultimo, where the current collection houses Australia's best technology museum. Further our view is that the technical interest in the collection should not be restricted to static exhibits and our recommendation is that the revitalised museum include space for hands-on experience of seeing real objects, with appropriate information and technical education. Thus, extension of the SHR curtilage is considered a necessary and vital step for the future.

EA / EHS would be pleased to interact further with Heritage NSW on this issue, and I can be contacted on the email address below or on 0414 609 001.

Yours sincerely



Eamonn Madden
Chair, Engineering Heritage Sydney (EHS)
Engineers Australia, Sydney Division
eamonn.madden@partridge.com.au
8 April 2024



BULLETIN 04/2024

Introduction

This bulletin provides an update, at irregular intervals, on the AAMME operations between 07 Mar - 04 Apr 2024.

Mission

Promote the collection of significant material of RAE Corps History and Heritage (H2), and implement best practice in the management, preservation, and display of that H2 IOT educate Sappers, and contribute towards esprit de corps, future doctrine and materiel development. Also, enhance broader awareness of the RAE Corps achievements.

Theme

- RAE [Battlespace] Functions.
- Vietnam Barrier Minefield.
- 160 (+) yrs of Bridging the Gap.
- RAE Corps Band.

Recent Worthy Achievements

SME Carpenters, SPRs Jacob Jackson and Andrew Crowe, designed, built and fitted a superb 42 peg hat rack in the entrance of the AAMME; very much appreciated.

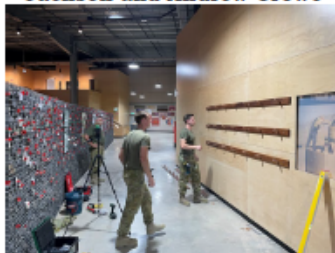
A small time capsule has been hidden inside a display within AAMME. It contains many items of interest incl a nominal role, Strategic Plan, Bulletins, badges, buttons, coins, pictures etc etc. Hopefully, the capsule will remain undetected for many years to come.

Let me welcome the RAE Retired Officers Assoc to the Bulletin.

Volunteering

If you're interested, or know someone interested, in joining us as a volunteer, please email SGT Gregory Black via our mailbox.

SME Carpenters, SPRs Jacob Jackson and Andrew Crowe



Visitors

Many MIL and CIV personnel, incl families and friends, continue to visit the AAMME; some regularly including:

- SME CO, ADJT & RSM.
- SME staff & students.
- NSW Schools.
- Army Cadets.
- Veterans Assoc/Clubs.
- Base Support pers.

Training/Courses/Activities

Groups continue to utilise the facilities within the AAMME incl:

- SME & SOER EDDs.
- SOER FMP trg.
- SME ROBC & IETs.
- SEG PME acty

4 (Inauditum) Troop March-Out 28 Mar 2024



See ForceNet to find out what's behind the 'Inauditum' Story.

aamme.mailbox@defence.gov.au

Curator

With assistance from two of our Vietnam veteran volunteers, Al Preston and Bob Cane, Ph two of our relocation of Her Majesty's Armoured Personnel Carrier (HMAPC) FLINT was completed with the hanging of a 'front drop' on our gabion wall showing HMAPC STEELE operating in the Barrier Minefield, Vietnam.

The other HMAPC used by the RAE to clear the Barrier Minefield was GEORGE (to feature in Ph three).

Barrier Minefield Front Drop



Plan for the next quarter

Relocate MV10, and prep Main Exhibition Area for LRSS IHSV. Attend AACAP 24 IOT capture the 6 ESR/AACAP story, and estab a permanent AACAP display inside AAMME. Establish additional children's interactive activities.

Continue the process to secure a MK3 (sandy coloured) Husky. Organise a visit by AAMME staff to the Repository, Bandiana. Review the AAMME Plans.

Promote the continuing successes and achievements of the AAMME and RAE Corps. See more AAMME pictures on the SME Facebook site, and more about the Australian Army History [Unit] Group on ForceNet.

By Museum Manager: MAJ Robert Wallace (robert.wallace2@defence.gov.au) - 04 Apr 2024